# TURNING THE TIDE

## L.A. ANTI-RACISM NEWSLETTER

PEOPLE AGAINST RACIST TERROR (PART) P. O. Box 1990, Burbank CA 91507

Volume Four, #4 July-Aug. 1991 50¢



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***LETTERS:**
Anti-racist skins, freedom for Puerto Rico.


DEMONSTRATE AGAINST THE CROSS-BURNERS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2ND 9:00 AM

CRIMINAL COURTS 210 W. TEMPLE

# NEO-NAZIS ON TRIAL IN L.A. FOR TRIPLE CROSS-BURNING

*Metzger, Butler, KKK and nazis burn three crosses, San Fernando Valley, December 1983.*

Tom Metzger, head of the San Diego based White Aryan Resistance (WAR) and Richard Butler, head of the Idaho based para-military Aryan Nations, converged on L.A. in Dec. 1983 for a unity rally with Stan Witek, head of the local nazis, and L.A. grand dragon Frank Silva. When an infiltrator spilled the beans on their planned cross-burning, the racists made a deal with the cops to allow them to proceed with burning three crosses at what they claimed was a religious memorial for a dead cop, and be arrested afterward.

After many twists and turns in court, Metzger and some of his neo-nazi cohorts are finally facing trial for this act of racist terrorism. Jury selection is scheduled to begin on or about July 12, and PART is planning a demonstration at the Criminal Courts, 210 W. Temple, on Friday, August 2, at 9:00 A.M. What has happened with this more than eight year old case demonstrates that we can't rely on the cops or the courts to fight racist terror -- we need an alert, assertive anti-racist movement. At the time of the cross-burning, the D.A. wouldn't press charges, citing faulty police arrest reports. Then-City Attorney Ira Reiner brought misdemeanor charges, but a judge threw them out, citing the First Amendment rights of the neo-nazis. He gave the racist terrorists a tongue-lashing and let them go free.

Eventually, that decision was overturned in appeals court -- but not before several of the cross burners became federal fugitives, wanted for murdering a Jewish talk show host and robbing banks and a Brinks truck to finance a white racist revolution. One of the L.A. cross-burning defendants, before he was caught, also killed a Missouri state trooper. When the cross-burning charges were finally reinstated, Metzger moved to have them considered as felonies, figuring he stood a better chance of more delays and another dismissal. He was right -- after many months of hearings and postponements, a second judge also threw the case out, buying Metzger's arguments that burning a cross was religious freedom. Once again, an appeals court reinstated the charges, but not before Tom and John Metzger were found liable for the killing of an Ethiopian refugee by their nazi bonehead followers in Oregon.

Now, after all these needless, racist deaths, the L.A. cross-burners are finally back in court on the original charges. A cross-burning is not an act of free speech or religious freedom -- A CROSS-BURNING IS AN ACT OF RACIST TERROR! Come to court and demand that justice finally be done, and that Metzger, Witek and their racist cohorts finally do the time for having done the crime!

# letters to PART:

Dear PART:

I want to congratulate you on the fine work you're doing on alerting everyone to the racist "invasion" the U.S. is going through.

I'd like to know if you have published, or plan to publish, an article on Puerto Rico's political situation, political prisoners, our self-determination process, and what the U.S. is doing with us. Our island is one of the oldest colonies in the world, and when we want to choose our own future, Uncle Sam tries to suppress our will. Any information is welcome. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Daniel
P.O. Box 5111
Ponce Puerto Rico
00733

PART REPLIES:

As you point out, Puerto Rico is one of the first colonies of the modern period of capitalist colonialism, and one of the last remaining ones, still subject to a massive military occupation by the U.S., which invaded in 1898 just as Puerto Rico was winning its independence from Spain. As we approach the 500th anniversary of the European invasion of the Americas by Columbus, the demand for an end to colonialism in Puerto Rico should become a world-wide demand, and certainly here in the U.S., which is also approaching a century of direct colonial control of Puerto Rico.

The invasion of Borinquen by Columbus, who renamed it Puerto Rico, resulted in the virtual extermination of the indigenous Tainos by slavery and disease. The remnant of the "indians" who fled to the mountainous interior inter-mingled with escaped African slaves and oppressed Spanish workers to produce the "jibaro" characteristic of the island, and have maintained their resistance to this day. Puerto Rico in this century has successfully withstood U.S. efforts to depopulate the island, to replace Spanish with English, and to turn the entire archipeligo into a military preserve.

Puerto Ricans who have resisted this genocidal domination have been subjected to fierce political repression. One-third of all Puerto Ricans now live in the continental U.S., including 100,000 or more here in California, and from this still-patriotic population, as well as in Puerto Rico itself, the U.S. has taken many nationalists and independentistas captive as political prisoners and prisoners of war. One organization to contact about these and other prisoners is Freedom Now!, 59 E. Van Buren #1400, Chicago IL 60605; 312-663-4399.

PART:

Hey now! Thanks for the issue of TTT with my interview in it. Since I had last written to you, I found out that Aryan Nations and WAR (yes, the Metzgers are still at it) have put out a hit on me. My life's in danger, but I will not hide. So, the more I can do to combat them and their beliefs, the better. I wish there was a more peaceful way I could deal with these jerks! But you and I know this is not possible.

I want to help any way I can in the fight against racism. It once controlled my life, and I wouldn't want anyone else to go through the same things that I did. Well, that's about it for now. Thanks.

Allen Moller

Hello!

I write you 'cause I would like to receive regularly Turning the Tide, so I send 50FF cash and I hope it will be ok!

Here in Paris, nazi skins are very numerous (Paris-St. Germain Kop. G.U.D., Front Nacional, Jeunesse Nacionale, etc.) and there aren't a lot of skinhead organizations which fight fascism: only the ARA skinheads (SHARP) for now. There are socialist skins, such as Red Warriors, Redaction, Red Ants, but they're more in the suburbs than Paris.

There is also a redskin 'zine called "Rude Boy," and I write you their address if you are interested:

Rude Boy/OCTOBRE
Boite Postal 781
75124 Paris CEDEX03
FRANCE

Thanks for any information you can share about anti-fascist and socialist skins and 'zines.

Claude,
Paris, France

Dear PART:

Just thought I'd write to let you know of a skinhead group in Husum, WA called S.A.W.S. (Skins Against White Supremacy). We started last year and researched the racist problem. I'm originally from Boston, MA, and when I lived there, there wasn't really much of an anti-racist scene or group. Everyone just did their own thing, but racists weren't seen very long because everyone liked to kick the shit out of them. Now, since I've moved out west, I can't believe what a racist skin problem there is.

I lived in Salt Lake City for a year, and a lot of boneheads from Idaho used to come to the hardcore shows, and the worst thing was, everybody feared them! Not good! Now, I live in WA about an hour from Portland, so I often go to shows there and try to learn more about Portland's ordeal. I was lucky enough to be around for Metzger's slap in the face.

We were going to get a P.O. box and a 'zine going, but I joined the Marine Corps, which postponed it all. Being in the Corps, I've seen more depressing actions and hateful graffiti in 4 months than I did all last year. It doesn't look good when our military services, which is where the state picks up most of their police, are as fucked up as they are, when we're supposed to represent America, freedom and protection for the flag and all Americans. What I joke, I was greatly disappointed.

Anyway, I thought I'd just give you my point of view of it all. Keep in touch.

Douglas, S.A.W.S.
P.O. Box 531
Lyle, WA 98635

# POLICE DEPARTMENT IN L.A. -- RACIST, SEXIST, ANTI-GAY!

Police abuse cases fill courtrooms and make headlines all around L.A, and a lot of it is on videotape. Sgt. Stacey Koon, one of the officers involved in the infamous beating of Rodney King, was videotaped subduing a drug suspect with a TASER gun in an incident a couple of years ago, and that tape was actually incorporated into a training film that is being used by the police department to illustrate the proper use of force.

In the case of several Samoan men charged with assault on an officer after they were beaten by sheriff's deputies called to a noisy party, video-tapes of the men being beaten by deputies convinced the jurors to acquit, and were also instrumental in winning damages for those beaten.

However, in the notorious case of the two Long Beach cops who were captured on video tape by NBC in a sting operation by African American ex-cop Don Jackson, who is shown on tape being thrown against a plate glass window and a car hood, the mostly white jury was hung 11-1 in favor of acquittal of the cops. Only the single Black member of the jury held out to convict the cops. The jury even discounted charges of falsifying an arrest report against the cops. The cops maintained that Jackson had cursed them, when the tape clearly shows Jackson silent while the officer curses him. The defense claimed that the cops were suffering from post-traumatic stress syndrome when they wrote the report which distorted their memories of what actually occured.

In another case of police abuse going unpunished, a jury refused to convict several LAPD officers of conspiracy and vandalism in the destruction of several apartments on Dalton Street in the African American community in a so-called "drug raid" which netted no drugs but resulted in the utter devastation. The families are still pursuing a civil judgement against the city, but the jury in the criminal case said they felt that even though it was clear the police had wantonly and incorrectly destroyed the homes, the prosecution had failed to prove its case against the particular officers.

The assistant D.A. in the case blamed the LAPD and the City Attorney for participating in a cover up of the police misconduct, and blamed their refusal to cooperate with the prosecution, as well as the police "code of silence" regarding fellow officers, for the jury's refusal to convict. The L.A. Daily News released the text of two internal police memos, one by Vernon himself, which cited the Dalton Street raid as an example of the "farcical mismanagement" of the LAPD war on drugs. The City Attorney and LAPD were ordered to pay a fine for "neglecting" to turn these reports over to attorneys for the families' whose homes were destroyed in the raid.

HERE'S THE SITUATION...YOU'RE BLACK, YOU'RE IN L.A., AND YOU JUST EXCEEDED THE SPEED LIMIT.

Meanwhile, a retired deputy sheriff involved in a dispute with Sheriff Block obtained and released to the media a video-tape taken in the aftermath of a rebellion in the County Jail five years ago. The tapes show the Sheriff's SWAT team regaining control of the jail through the use of exploding rubber pellets, and then when the inmates have been subdued, the deputies force the prisoners to run a gauntlet, crawling down a corridor on their bellies while deputies rain blows on them with their batons. Sheriff Block claimed that the incident demonstrated unnecessary but not excessive force, and that no officers had been disciplined at the time because individuals could not be identified on the tape.

Besides all this video footage, evidence continues to mount of racism in police operations, especially in dealing with complaints. An analysis by the L.A. Times of over 4000 complaints of police misconduct recently showed that complaints by African Americans are much less likely to be upheld by the LAPD's investigations than those by whites or Latinos. On the other hand, complaints against Black officers, particularly by white civilians, are much more likely to be upheld than those against white officers. (Overall, only about 7% of complaints are sustained, a ratio diametrically opposite to the conviction rate in trials in criminal court.) Another study last year of the use of deadly force and guns by the L.A. Sheriff's showed that the overwhelming majority of those killed or shot by the deputies were Black and Mexicano.

In another court development in L.A., a jury found in favor of long-time activist Michael Zinzun in his law suit against Chief Gates and Assistant Chief Vernon. Vernon, a born-again fundamentalist preacher who has recruited many of the department's officers to his ministry, used the computers of the LAPD's Anti-Terrorist Task Force to retrieve articles about Zinzun, a former Black Panther who was running for City Council in Pasadena, and gave the material, *via* his wife, to his neighbor, a former mayor of Pasadena. The City Attorney had recommended that the city settle with Zinzun for $450,000 – which Zinzun had been prepared to accept. But after the Rodney King beating put the heat on Gates, the City Council voted to turn down the settlement and go to trial, figuring they could beat Zinzun in court. But the jury ruled for Zinzun, ordering the city to pay $3.85 million in damages and directing Vernon himself to pay another $10,000 in punitive damages. Even after winning, Zinzun offered again to settle out of court to put the case to rest without further expense, but the City Council at Gates's recommendation again refused to accept the settlement proposed by the City Attorney, and insisted on fighting the verdict with an appeal.

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Meanwhile, Vernon has come under criticism from the City Council after a local paper released transcripts of tapes by Vernon, circulated by a local church, in which Vernon denounces homosexuality, calls for women to be submissive to their husband's "leadership," urges parents to discipline their kids "with a stick" to save them from hell, and refers to police as "ministers of God" who are allowed to use deadly force.

Critics questioned Chief Gates' ability to determine Vernon's fitness, and whether his religious views had affected his job, noting that Gates' wife attends Vernon's church, as do many police officers. At least two cops have charged that they were coerced into attending, with the threat of being frozen out for promotions. It was also disclosed that prior to carrying out orders to arrest Operation Rescue blockaders who were shutting down a women's clinic, Vernon had consulted with elders of his church to seek their permission. Vernon issued a memo in 1975 which is still L.A.P.D. policy on gays, though a draft statement saying that no discrimination will be tolerated is currently being circulated. His memo states that "there is no area sacred from the homosexual when it comes to furthering their insurgent ideas ... Homosexuals have a corrosive effect on their fellow employees because they attempt to entice normal individuals to engage in perverted sexual practices ... The disqualification of applicants based on homosexual conduct must be continued."

The LAPD has come under increasing criticism from lesbians and gay men for its homophobia and anti-gay attacks. Jon Davidson, senior counsel for gay and lesbian rights at the ACLU, said that "lesbians and gay men have been among those singled out for assault and unequal enforcement" by the LAPD. Roger Coggan, the legal services director at the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, reported that the agency had received 60 reports of police misconduct against lesbians and gays over the past two years, almost one in every six of the anti-gay hate crimes reported to them over that period. Gay and lesbian activists have also testified harshly about police practices to the Christopher Commission formed in the wake of the King beating to investigate police abuse and how the department and the city handle it.

The department is also being sued by a former officer, Mitch Grobeson, now with the San Francisco P.D., who claims he was harassed internally so severely after he was "outed" as a gay man by a Sheriff's deputy that he was forced to quit the L.A.P.D. despite having been once personally commended by Chief Gates. Grobeson sought to expose the brutal beating of a gay man by a cop in Silverlake, a mixed Latino and gay area east of Hollywood, at a 1985 street fair that has become an annual event to promote understanding in the diverse neighborhood. He told the press that Vernon instructed the LAPD to destroy evidence against the officer involved. Grobeson blames the department's homophobia on the Chief and Vernon. In refusing to recruit open gays to the force, Gates was quoted as saying, "Who would want to work with one, anyway?" More recently, he told another local police chief, head of a neighboring force, that "gays are evil, and do evil."

When the LAPD agreed to allow several officers who came out of the closet in the past few weeks to recruit in uniform at the "Christopher Street West" Gay Pride march in L.A. on June 23, Gates at first declared his opposition. When it became clear that the Community Relations Unit had already authorized the recruitment and the uniforms, Gates backed down, saying that he was personally opposed to the officers wearing their uniforms, but would not prohibit it. He also declared that he wasn't in favor of recruiting "on the basis of lifestyle," saying that he had enough trouble recruiting from the groups that he was mandated to hire (women and minorities, who won lawsuits to overturn discriminatory hiring practices by the LAPD). On the same grounds, Gates vetoes a proposed settlement of Grobeson's lawsuit. Grobeson, however, decided to join the openly gay current officers in recruiting at the Gay Pride march. The officers involved, including lesbian officer Sue Herold, reservist Paul Butler, and training officer John Smith are members of a group of gay and lesbian L.A. law enforcement personnel called "Pride Behind the Badge." The group was formed after more than 60 gay cops got in touch with Grobeson after he went public with his suit.

The time is long overdue for community control of the police and a top to bottom overhaul of the whole system. The problem is much bigger than just Chief Gates or a few rotten apples. The police must be accountable to the democratic power of the people. The best available way to move in that direction is the proposal for an elected civilian board being offered by the Coalition for Justice and Civilian Review. As TTT goes to press, sponsors are investigating the process of qualifying to circulate petitions to put this proposal on the ballot. PART has endorsed this campaign, and urges everyone in L.A. to contact CAPA, the Coalition Against Police Abuse, at (213) 684-1892 or (213) 733-2107 for more information about this campaign.

SUBSCRIBE NOW!

Yes, I want to take PART in the struggle against racism!
[ ] Here's my donation to PART of _____.

[ ] Enter my one-year subscription to "Turning the Tide" for $5.00.
[ ] Enter my supporting subscription to TTT plus all research reports for $10.00.
[ ] I want to have a speaker from PART come to my school/group/union. (Southern California only; expenses necessary).

Fill my order for the following anti-racist resources:

[ ] ___ back issues of TTT @ $.50 ea.:$___

Research Reports @ $2.00 each:
[ ] Research Report #1 (KLAN-TV)
[ ] Report #2 (ENGLISH ONLY)
[ ] Research Report #3 (ABORTION)
[ ] Research Report #4 (KKK)
[ ] Report #5 (WOLVES/PEACE)
[ ] Research Report #6 (COPS/KKK)

[ ] STOP HATE CRIMES! Video @ $15.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: ___ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Send Cash or U.S. Postal Money orders payable to: "Boxholder P.O. Box 1990" Burbank Ca 91507.

# HATE CRIME UPDATE:

Thousand Oaks, April:
Nazi boneheads break three windows and spray-paint graffiti on a Black family's home.

Huntington Beach, April:
Three skinheads are arrested on suspicion of attempted murder in the brutal beating of two men who tried to stop their attack on a woman.

Bakersfield, April:
Skins J.J. Gallagher, Adam Washer and a juvenile are arrested for two drive by shootings.

Riverside, April:
A cross-burning occurs in the yard of a house of a Hispanic man after a Black friend moved in.

Ventura, April:
In a clash between Nazi bonehead and gang rivals, the front door and windows of a house formerly occupied by a skinhead is smashed in, and shots are fired.

Santa Monica, May:
Racist hate mail from the "Association for the Advancement of Conservative White Americans" is sent to the families of more than 700 Latino students at Santa Monica High School.

Yucaipa, May:
Neo-nazi graffiti appears at Yucaipa H.S., and nazi-bonehead hate propaganda is stuffed into lockers at the school. According to Klanwatch, local nazi-boneheads are being organized by James Oluden, just out of the Marines, into the Aryan Youth, aligning itself with WARSkins in San Bernardino and Riverside. Oluden formerly led a group of racist skins in Hawaii.

Ventura, May:
Repeated anti-semitic vandalism forces a Jewish sacramental goods shop to close. In a separate incident, three Navy men are arrested after brutally beating a gay man.

East L.A., June:
A Jewish cemetery is vandalized with swastikas and KKK graffiti, and tombstones are toppled. Investigation determines that the attack was carried out by a security company seeking a contract.

West Hollywood, June:
Eight teenagers are arrested for gay-bashing after attacking two gay men the evening after the Gay Freedom Day parade.

Irvine, June:
John Tyndall, a British neo-nazi leader, speaks to a gathering sponsored by the Populist Party, an amalgamation of "ex" Klansmen and nazis that ran David Duke for president.

NATIONAL HATE CRIME INCIDENTS:

Las Vegas, NV, April:
A Black family's home is torched, and "Niggers, Go back to Africa" is spray-painted on it.

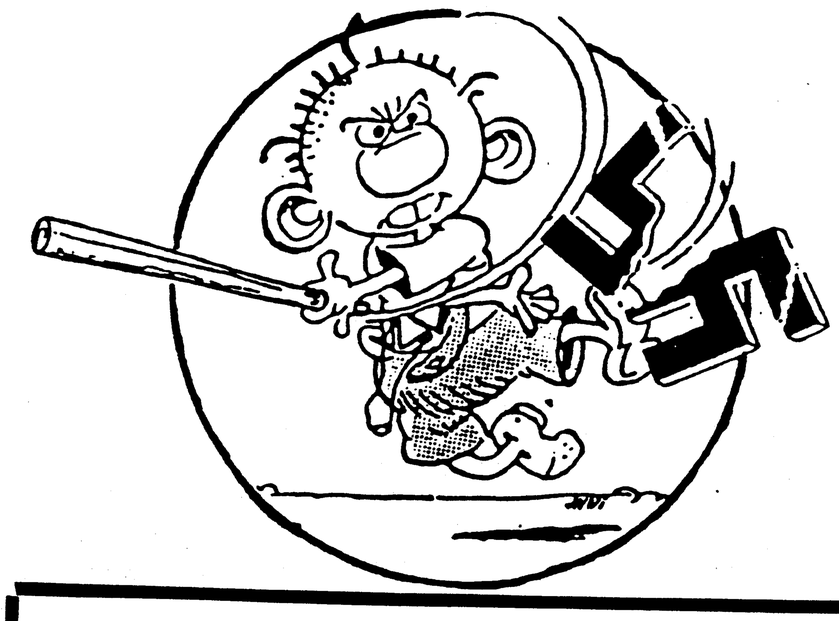
Seattle, WA, April:
Three separate cross-burning incidents directed at Black families occur within several days. In one case, a nazi-bonehead is arrested; in another, a dozen high school students are implicated.

Jacksonville, FL, May:
George Loeb, local head of the racist "Church of the Creator" shoots and kills an African American sailor who had just returned from the Gulf war. Loeb flees and is later arrested in New England.

Fort Smith, Ark, May:
Fugitive cult leader Tony Alamo is indicted for telephone threats against a U.S. judge. Alamo is wanted in L.A. on child abuse charges.

Gainesville, GA, May:
Two Klansmen are charged with inciting a riot after a KKK rally in a mostly Mexicano area to oppose immigrant workers.

Arlington and Dallas, TX, June:
Several teen-aged nazi boneheads kill a Black worker in a racially motivated random drive-by shooting. A cross is burned at the home of another Black family.



ALERT!

The same group of nazi boneheads, Klansmen, and rag-tag racists who tried to celebrate Hitler's birthday in April in Denver are planning to hold another rally to mark nazi Rudolph Hess' birthday on August 17. For more info, contact: The Saxifrage Group, POB 18717, Denver CO 80218.

# STOP THE LEGAL LYNCHING OF

# MUMIA ABU-JAMAL!

***To our liberation movements, the international community, and all progressive people:***

The State of Pennsylvania is planning the execution of a U.S. political prisoner. Unless we organize to stop it, MUMIA ABU-JAMAL will soon become the first political prisoner executed in this country since the Rosenbergs.

Mumia Abu-Jamal has been on death row since 1982. A former Black Panther, a journalist, and a supporter of MOVE, Mumia has been a target of the Philadelphia Police Department since the late 1960's. His articles for the Panther Party newspaper exposed the racist violence of the Philadelphia police and their chief, Frank Rizzo. Rizzo's response was a military style raid against the Panther headquarters, vicious beatings of its members, and a series of trumped-up charges. Mumia was one of those singled out.

In the 1970's, Frank Rizzo was the 'law and order' mayor of Philadelphia, and Mumia was one of the few journalists willing to speak out against the violence of his administration. In 1978, when Rizzo ordered the police to beseige and then assault a MOVE house, Mumia was the only reporter to interview MOVE members. Rizzo publicly vowed revenge.

In December 1981, Mumia saw his brother being beaten by a policeman. Mumia intervened. The policeman was killed and Mumia critically wounded. The trial was a farce presided over by a judge who was a retired member of the Fraternal Order of Police. He refused Mumia's request to represent himself. Black people were systematically excluded from the jury. An article about Mumia at age 16 for the *Philadelphia Inquirer* was introduced to prove 'intent' of an alleged long-held wish to kill cops and to secure the death penalty.

There is a long history of using the death penalty against radicals: Haymarket Square martyrs, Joe Hill, Sacco and Vanzetti, the Rosenbergs. Numerous organizers of the African-American, Native American, Mexican, Puerto Rican and Asian American communities historically have been executed with or without the benefit of a trial. In the 1960's and '70's, one of the tactics favored by the FBI was to accuse those it considered enemies of the government of shooting at or killing police. This was used to justify the police executions of Panthers Bobby Hutton, Zayd Malik Shakur and Fred Hampton and of Puerto Rican Independence activists Soto-Arriví and Dario Rosado. Some of the longest-held political prisoners and prisoners-of-war in the U.S., including many former Black Panthers and American Indian Movement leader, Leonard Peltier, are still held in prison on trumped-up charges of killing police or FBI agents. Dhoruba bin Wahad, a former leader of the New York Black Panther Party, was recently freed after doing 19 years in prison on a fabricated charge of shooting two police.

We need to stop the railroad of Mumia Abu-Jamal. The death penalty means we have little time to do it. Mumia has exhausted his state appeals and Pennsylvania's governor Robert Casey has begun signing death warrants. The U.S. Supreme Court just added its own blessing by refusing to review the case.

We must not allow the same racist fear and hatred of African-American self-determination that brought about COINTELPRO to execute Mumia. We cannot allow the state to finish the job the FBI and Philadelphia police started when they dropped the bomb on the MOVE house in May 1985 killing 11 men, women and children, by putting Mumia Abu-Jamal to death. We must put a stop to this genocidal agenda that has put more than 2400 Third World and white working class people on death rows around the country. The death penalty has already been used to kill children, the mentally retarded, and the innocent. Now, unless we stop it, it will again be used as a tool of political revenge. The struggle against racism and injustice in this country has had enough martyrs.

We, the undersigned Prisoners of War, political prisoners, and politically conscious social prisoners demand that Governor Casey commute the death sentence of Mumia Abu-Jamal. (Write to Gov. Robert Casey, Main Capitol Bldg., Rm. 225, Harrisburg, PA 17120.) We call upon our movements, our communities, progressive nations and all anti-racist people committed to human rights to join us in undertaking all possible measures to stop this execution. We urge you to adopt this case as the highest priority in the struggle for justice. Only our collective power can save this man that the Black community of Philadelphia calls "the Voice of the Voiceless."

**• FREE MUMIA ABU-JAMAL!**

**• ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY!**

**• FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS AND POWS! •**

Funds are urgently needed to support the campaign to save Mumia's life!

New Afrikan Network in Defense of Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War, P.O. Box 90604, Washington, D.C. 20090

Freedom Now!/DC Campaign for Amnesty and Human Rights for Political Prisoners in the U.S., P.O. Box 28191, Washington, D.C. 20038

Partisan Defense Committee, c/o Rachel Wolkenstein, Esq., P.O. Box 99 Canal Street Station, New York, NY 10013

Name _____

Address _____

_____

__ Enclosed is donation of $_____ __ Please send me more information

Clip and send to one of the groups earmark for Mumia campaign.

## Silvia Baraldini . . .

is an Italian citizen who has lived and done anti-racist, anti-war political work in the U.S. for over 25 years, has served over eight years in various federal prisons. A political prisoner, she was sentenced to 43 years. A non-political prisoner in similar circumstances would have received a 5-year sentence. During this time she was held for almost two years in the High Security Unit at Lexington, KY, the BOP's experiment in small group isolation and sensory deprivation. While there, she contracted a deadly form of uterine cancer necessitating two operations and radiation therapy. In Sept/89, her only sister was killed in an airplane explosion over Africa. Her mother, a widow, now lives alone in Rome. Under an international treaty, Silvia petitioned to return to Italy to serve the rest of her sentence in an Italian prison. In Dec/90, this petition was denied by the U.S. government, even though it was supported by top Italian politicians.

Silvia's supporters have been campaigning to get her to Italy. For petition forms, or for general information contact: Out of Control, Box 30, 3543 - 18th St., San Francisco, CA 94110.



URGENT ACTION!

Silvia may be suffering a recurrence of cancer. Send a FAX now!
Call 1-800-888-5284 and ask to send message 518, or fax your own to Michael Quinlan, Bureau of Prisons;202-514-6388

# COPS AND THE KLAN: Hand in Hand?

More and more disturbing evidence continues to come out about neo-nazi involvement in police, law enforcement and other uniformed services, including fire departments and the military.

In the wake of the Rodney King beating, a Black woman police officer came forward to disclose she and another Black officer had been the targets of KKK harassment from cops at the Foothill Division where the King beating took place. Later, a white-bereted paramilitary Klan outfit with close ties to Tom Metzger was disclosed to be recruiting in the L.A. police. This KKK formation has now announced that is going "underground," presumably in preparation for race war.

Meanwhile, in Texas, members of the Houston police expressing the view that "somone's got to do something about what's happening to white officers in the department" also requested and received recruitment material from the Klan. Charles Lee, grand dragon of the Knights of the KKK, said "There's no other organization that stands up against reverse discrimination."

Klan activity has also been exposed recently in several fire departments. In Detroit, the FBI is investigating the harassment of a Black firefighter in June by a sergeant who allegedly put on a white sheet and a pillow-case hood and brandished an axe. In a similar case last year in L.A., a fire department supervisor donned a white paper bag in a mock hood and intimidate a Black woman employee. Dozens of Black firefighters resigned from the union in protest. n Blakely GA, Black residents supported by the Center for Democratic Renewal won an out of court settlement that resulted in the resignation of the fire chief and two other Klan members of the department.

Now two VA police officers have started a national organization for white male police officers to oppose affirmative action hiring and promotion policies. "We feel the same as (women and minorities who) think they don't have a voice," said one organizer of the group, which allows only white male officers to be voting members. The group was originally to be called the National White Law Enforcement Officers Association, but replaced "White" with "Concerned." This cosmetic change doesn't hide the racist nature of the group, which follows the "just defending white rights" line of the KKK, David Duke and George Bush.

White supremacists in the police and military have repeatedly put their beliefs into practice through racist violence and many times by funneling weapons and intelligence to their hooded compatriots. They must be exposed and excluded from law enforcement. PART has a research report, "Blue by Day, White by Night," available from P.O. Box 1990, Burbank CA 91507, for $2.00, that exposes dozens of such incidents over the last decade. Send for a copy now!

# "FREE SPEECH": For Fascists Only?

The utter hypocrisy of government claims that they must protect the free speech rights of Klansmen and other night riders became particularly clear when the Supreme Court ruled that the government can impose a gag on doctors and other medical practitioners to prevent them from advising poor women about the availability or advisability of abortion to terminate unwanted pregnancies. At the same time, the Supreme Court took up a case to extend "free speech" protection to cross burnings and other acts of racist vandalism and terror as "expressions of white supremacist beliefs."

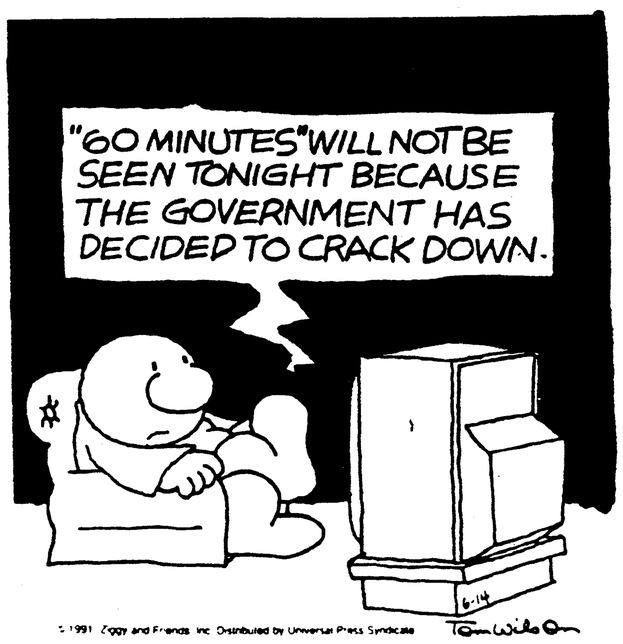
The anti-abortion gag rule imposed by the Bush Administration and enforced by the Supreme Court is terrible on the face of it. Its enactment gives the lie to Bush's mealy mouthed attacks on "p.c." thinking in the schools as an attack on free speech. Bush's idea of "free speech" is to give the widest possible leeway to racist and sexist intimidation, while limiting any artistic, cultural, political and even medical expressions that could liberate the oppressed or threaten the status quo.

Coupled with a recent Virginia judge's ruling that a cross burning is constitutionally protected expression, (see last issue of TTT) and with the sorry history of the Metzger/Order cross-burning prosecution in L.A. (see cover story), the Supreme Court decision to hear a challenge to a Minnesota cross-burning and ethnic intimidation law threatens to open the door to a massive upsurge in racist terror.

In the Minnesota case, a 17-year old appealed his conviction for burning a cross along with four other people in the front yard of a Black family in June 1990. A juvenile court judge had dismissed the charge and ruled a St. Paul city hate crime ordinance unconstitutional, but the state supreme court had reinstated the charges and upheld the law on appeal.

It must be repeated. A cross-burning is not an act of free speech or religious belief; A CROSS BURNING IS AN ACT OF RACIST TERROR! The ugly, bloody history of KKK night riders and nazi violence makes it clear that the public expressions and rallies of the racists are always the tip of the iceberg of a clandestine commitment to exterminationist race war.

By outlawing abortion counseling and upholding cross burning, the government has made it clear once again, just as the Supreme Court made clear in the Dred Scott decision upholding the fugitive slave act, that the oppressed have no rights which the oppressor is bound to respect. In this society, free speech and a free press are reserved for the rich and powerful and for those who carry out their dirty work.



In the face of growing racist, sexist, anti-semitic and homophobic violence, PART is stepping up its organizing. We leafleted showings of "Blood in the Face", a documentary film about the neo-nazi movement at the NuArt theater, with information about local racist organizing and crimes. Michael Novick of PART spoke at an A.R.A. concert in San Diego in June, and PART has endorsed the police review board initiative and cosponsored the "Winds of Change" anti-racism study group. An organizer of MARK, the former grass-roots antiklan group from Birmingham, Alabama, has joined us, bringing with her the MARK slideshow about the history and strategy of white supremacist groups like the Klan to use as an outreach resource. PART sponsored a small rally at pre-trial hearings for Tom Metzger and other neo-nazi cross-burners. We are also involved in a follow-up coalition to the Valley Martin Luther King march, planning a program in October to promote unity in diversity. But it is vital for more people and groups to get involved in these efforts.

PART is having a mobilizing meeting at the Peace Building, Sunday, July 14 (Bastille Day), at 3:00 (following the Winds of Change anti-racism study group), for people interested in organizing a rally at the Metzger cross-burning trial and getting involved in an on-going, grass-roots campaign against racism and sexism, and for liberation and self-determination. For more information, call PART at 818-509-3435.

# CALENDAR OF UP-COMING PART EVENTS

## July:

7/14 Sunday 3:00 PM,
8124 W. Third, LA
PART mobilizing meeting

## August:

8/2 Friday 9:00 AM,
210 W. Temple, LA
Demonstration at Metzger cross burning trial.

8/9 Friday 7:30 PM,
9550 Haskell, Sepulveda
Unitarian Universalist "Onion"
Michael Novick of PART and Michael Zinzun of CAPA speak about Racism, Rodney King and the New World Order."
$5 donation.

8/15 Thursday 7:30 PM,
8600 Hazeltine, Panorama City
Valley Thursday Night Forum,
Michael Novick of PART speaks on countering racist terror.

P.A.R.T.
P.O. Box 1990
Burbank CA 91507

Address correction requested

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